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**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION**

Bankruptcy Case No. 19-30088 (DM)

In re:

PG&E CORPORATION,

- and -

**PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC
COMPANY,**

Debtors.

- ☐ Affects PG&E Corporation
☐ Affects Pacific Gas and Electric Company
☒ Affects both Debtors

** All papers shall be filed in the Lead Case,
No. 19-30088 (DM).*

Chapter 11
(Lead Case)
(Jointly Administered)

**DEBTORS' MOTION PURSUANT TO
BANKRUPTCY CODE SECTIONS 105(A)
AND 107(B) AND BANKRUPTCY RULE
9018 FOR ENTRY OF AN ORDER
AUTHORIZING (I) THE FILING UNDER
SEAL OF THE BRIDGE FEE LETTERS
AND (II) THE REDACTION OF CERTAIN
PORTIONS OF THE DEBT FINANCING
ENGAGEMENT LETTERS**

[No Hearing Requested]

1 PG&E Corporation (“**PG&E Corp.**”) and Pacific Gas and Electric Company (the
2 “**Utility**”), as debtors and debtors in possession (collectively, “**PG&E**” or the “**Debtors**”) in the
3 above-captioned chapter 11 cases (the “**Chapter 11 Cases**”), hereby submit this Motion (the
4 “**Motion**”), pursuant to sections 105(a) and 107(b) of title 11 of the United States Code (the
5 “**Bankruptcy Code**”), Rule 9018 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the “**Bankruptcy**
6 **Rules**”), Rule 1001-2(a) of the Bankruptcy Local Rules for the United States District Court for the
7 Northern District of California (the “**Bankruptcy Local Rules**”) and the *New District Wide*
8 *Procedures for Electronically Filing Sealed and Redacted Documents* adopted by the United States
9 Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of California (the “**Local Procedures**”), for entry of an
10 order (i) authorizing the Debtors to file the Bridge Fee Letters (as defined below) under seal and
11 the Debt Financing Engagement Letters (as defined below) with certain portions (the “**Redacted**
12 **Portions**”) under seal, in each case related to the *Debtors’ Motion for Entry of Orders (i) Approving*
13 *Terms of, and Debtors’ Entry into and Performance Under, Exit Financing Commitment Letters*
14 *and (ii) Authorizing Incurrence, Payment and Allowance of Related Fees and/or Premiums,*
15 *Indemnities, Costs and Expenses as Administrative Expense Claims* (the “**Exit Financing**
16 **Commitment Motion**”),¹ filed contemporaneously herewith, and (ii) directing that the Bridge Fee
17 Letters and the Redacted Portions of the Debt Financing Engagement Letters shall remain under
18 seal and confidential and not be made available to anyone (except for the parties identified in the
19 immediately following sentence) without the consent of the Debtors and the other parties to the
20 Bridge Fee Letters and the Debt Financing Engagement Letters or further order from the Court.
21 The Debtors shall provide the Bridge Fee Letters and the Redacted Portions of the Debt Financing
22 Engagement Letters to the Court, the Office of the United States Trustee for the Northern District
23 of California (the “**U.S. Trustee**”) and to advisors to the Official Committee of Unsecured
24 Creditors, the Official Committee of Tort Claimants and any other official committee established
25 pursuant to section 1102 of the Bankruptcy Code on a confidential and professionals’ eyes only
26 basis.

27
28 ¹ Capitalized terms used but not defined in this Motion shall have the meaning used in the Exit
Financing Commitment Motion.

1 In support of the Motion, the Debtors respectfully submit the Declaration of Kenneth
2 S. Ziman (the “**Ziman Declaration**”), filed contemporaneously herewith. A proposed form of
3 order granting the relief requested herein is submitted concurrently herewith in accordance with the
4 Local Procedures (the “**Proposed Order**”).
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MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

I. JURISDICTION

The Court has jurisdiction to consider this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334, the *Order Referring Bankruptcy Cases and Proceedings to Bankruptcy Judges*, General Order 24 (N.D. Cal.), and Bankruptcy Local Rule 5011-1(a). This is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b). Venue is proper before the Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409.

II. BACKGROUND

Contemporaneously herewith, the Debtors have filed the Exit Financing Commitment Motion seeking, among other things, approval by the Court of:

- that certain Commitment Letter dated as of October 4, 2019 (the “**PG&E Corp. Bridge Commitment Letter**”), by and among PG&E Corp., the Utility, JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. (“**JPMorgan**”), Bank of America, N.A. (“**BANA**”), BofA Securities, Inc. (“**BofA**” and, together with BANA, “**Bank of America**”), Barclays Bank PLC (“**Barclays**”), Citigroup Global Markets Inc. (“**Citi**”), Goldman Sachs Bank USA (“**GS Bank**”) and Goldman Sachs Lending Partners LLC (together with GS Bank, “**Goldman Sachs**”; JPMorgan, Bank of America, Barclays, Citi and Goldman Sachs, collectively, the “**Initial Bridge Commitment Parties**”²);
- that certain Commitment Letter dated as of October 4, 2019 (the “**Utility Bridge Commitment Letter**” and, together with the PG&E Corp. Bridge Commitment Letter, the “**Bridge Commitment Letters**”), by and among PG&E Corp., the Utility and the Initial Bridge Commitment Parties;
- that certain Fee Letter dated as of October 4, 2019 (the “**PG&E Corp. Bridge Fee Letter**”), by and among PG&E Corp., the Utility and the Initial Bridge Commitment Parties;

² The Initial Bridge Commitment Parties, together with any other parties that become party to the Debt Commitment Letters as additional “Commitment Parties”, are collectively referred to as the “**Bridge Commitment Parties**”, and the Bridge Commitment Parties and the Equity Backstop Parties are collectively referred to as the “**Exit Commitment Parties**”.

- that certain Fee Letter dated as of October 4, 2019 (the “**Utility Bridge Fee Letter**” and, together with the PG&E Corp. Bridge Fee Letter, the “**Bridge Fee Letters**”), by and among PG&E Corp., the Utility and the Initial Bridge Commitment Parties;
- that certain Securities Engagement Letter dated as of October 4, 2019 (the “**Securities Engagement Letter**”), by and among PG&E Corp., the Utility, J.P. Morgan Securities LLC, Barclays Capital Inc., BofA, Citi and Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC; and
- that certain Bank Financing Engagement Letter dated as of October 4, 2019 (the “**Bank Financing Engagement Letter**” and, together with the Securities Engagement Letter, the “**Debt Financing Engagement Letters**”)³, by and among PG&E Corp., the Utility, JPMorgan, Barclays, BofA, Citi and Goldman Sachs.

Pursuant to the terms of the Bridge Commitment Letters, the Initial Bridge Commitment Parties have agreed, subject to the terms and conditions thereof, to backstop the incurrence of \$34.35 billion in senior debt obligations (the “**New Debt**”) contemplated by the Debtors’ Joint Chapter 11 Plan of Reorganization, which will be used, among other things, to refinance pre-petition high-coupon Utility bonds and fund the payment in full, in cash, of the Debtors’ obligations under their debtor-in-possession financing facilities. The Bridge Fee Letters provide for the payment of certain fees to the Initial Bridge Commitment Parties, and set forth certain “market flex” provisions, which describe permitted modifications to the Bridge Facilities in the interest of achieving a successful syndication of the Initial Bridge Commitment Parties’ commitments with respect to the Bridge Facilities. (Ziman Decl. ¶ 6.) The Debt Financing Engagement Letters engage the Initial Bridge Commitment Parties (or their affiliates) in connection with the New Debt incurrences, which are contemplated to occur closer to the Effective Date.

³ The Bridge Commitment Letters, the Bridge Fee Letters and the Debt Financing Engagement Letters are collectively referred to herein as the “**Debt Financing Commitment Letters**”.

1 Because the Bridge Fee Letters and Redacted Portions of the Debt Financing
2 Engagement Letters include sensitive and confidential commercial information, the Debtors and the
3 Initial Bridge Commitment Parties agreed that the Bridge Fee Letters would not be publicly disclosed
4 and that the Redacted Portions of the Debt Financing Engagement Letters would be redacted from the
5 publicly filed Debt Financing Engagement Letters. (*Id.* at ¶ 7.) The Initial Bridge Commitment Parties
6 have, however, consented to the Debtors filing the Bridge Fee Letters and the Redacted Portions of
7 the Debt Financing Engagement Letters under seal with the Court and providing the Bridge Fee Letters
8 and the Redacted Portions of the Debt Financing Engagement Letters to the U.S. Trustee and advisors
9 to the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors, the Official Committee of Tort Claimants and any
10 other official committee established pursuant to section 1102 of the Bankruptcy Code on a confidential
11 and professionals’ eyes only basis. (*Id.*)

12 **III. BASIS FOR RELIEF REQUESTED**

13 Section 105(a) of the Bankruptcy Code empowers the Court to “issue any order . . . that
14 is necessary or appropriate to carry out the provisions of this title.” 11 U.S.C. § 105(a). Section 107(b)
15 further provides:

16 On request of a party in interest, the bankruptcy court *shall*, and on the
17 bankruptcy court’s own motion, the bankruptcy court may—

18 (1) protect an entity with respect to a trade
19 secret or *confidential* research, development,
20 or *commercial information*
21

22 11 U.S.C. § 107(b) (emphasis added). Parsing the language of 107(b), courts have emphasized that
23 once the court determines that the information falls within one of the enumerated 107(b) categories,
24 the court “is *required* to protect [the movant] and has no discretion to deny the application”. *In re*
25 *Orion Pictures Corp.*, 21 F.3d 24, 27 (2d Cir. 1994). In addition, section 107(b) expressly authorizes
26 the court to grant protection, where warranted, to the confidential commercial information of “an
27 entity”. 11 U.S.C. § 107(b). Unlike its counterpart Rule 26(c) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure,
28 section 107(b) of the Bankruptcy Code does not require the movant to demonstrate “good cause”.

1 *Orion Pictures Corp.*, 21 F.3d at 28. Indeed, under section 107(b) the movant need only show “that
2 the information it [seeks] to seal [is] ‘confidential’ and ‘commercial’ in nature”. *Id.* at 27. Commercial
3 information is broadly defined to include information that would produce “an unfair advantage to
4 competitors by providing them information as to the commercial operations” of the entity seeking
5 protection, *see In re Itel Corp.*, 17 B.R. 942, 944 (B.A.P. 9th Cir. 1982), or information that could
6 have a “chilling effect on [business] negotiations, ultimately affecting the viability of Debtors”, *see In*
7 *re Borders Grp., Inc.*, 462 B.R. 42, 47 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2011) (quoting *In re Lomas Fin. Corp.*, No.
8 90 Civ. 7827 (LLS), 1991 WL 21231, at *2 (S.D.N.Y. Feb. 11, 1991)). Significantly, commercial
9 information need not rise to the level of a trade secret to warrant section 107(b)’s protection. *See*
10 *Orion Pictures Corp.*, 21 F.3d at 28 (finding that “§ 107(b) is carefully drafted to avoid merging ‘trade
11 secrets’ with ‘confidential commercial information’”).

12 The Bankruptcy Rules similarly authorize the Court to “make any order which justice
13 requires (1) to protect the estate or any entity in respect of a trade secret or other *confidential* research,
14 development, or *commercial information*.” Fed. R. Bankr. P. 9018 (emphasis added), *see also In re*
15 *Global Crossing Ltd.*, 295 B.R. 720, 725 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2003) (“[T]he whole point of [Bankruptcy
16 Rule 9018] is to protect business entities from disclosure of information that could reasonably be
17 expected to cause the entity commercial injury”). Finally, Local Procedures require that a request for
18 seal is narrowly tailored to sealable materials. *New District Wide Procedures For Electronically*
19 *Filing Sealed and Redacted Documents*. Because the Bridge Fee Letters and the Redacted Portions of
20 the Debt Financing Engagement Letters contain confidential commercial information within the scope
21 of section 107(b), this Court should grant the Debtors’ request.

22 Both the Bridge Fee Letters and the Debt Financing Engagement Letters are the product
23 of arm’s length, extensive and good faith negotiations, and due to the commercially sensitive nature
24 of the pricing and economic terms included in each, the public disclosure of either the Bridge Fee
25 Letters or the Redacted Portions of the Debt Financing Engagement Letters would likely cause
26 substantial harm to the Debtors and the Initial Bridge Commitment Parties and create an unfair
27 advantage for competitors of the Initial Bridge Commitment Parties. (See Ziman Decl. ¶¶ 6-7.)
28 Accordingly, the Debtors agreed to keep the Bridge Fee Letters and the Redacted Portions of the Debt

1 Financing Engagement Letters confidential. (*Id.*) In the competitive lending and investment banking
2 industry, the disclosure of this information would put the Initial Bridge Commitment Parties at a
3 distinct competitive disadvantage by constraining their ability to negotiate fees and related provisions
4 in future transactions. Further, because exit financings are only a small fraction of all syndicated
5 financings arranged by the Initial Bridge Commitment Parties, requiring them to disclose certain fee
6 information in this context but not in others could have a “chilling effect” that discourages them and
7 other competitor institutions from providing exit financing on terms favorable to the Debtors. Finally,
8 broad disclosure of the agreed upon fees coupled with the market flex and other sealed or redacted
9 provisions could jeopardize the Debtors’ ability to obtain the Bridge Facilities or the New Debt or
10 otherwise ensure the availability of exit financing by the AB 1054 deadline on the best terms available
11 for the Debtors’ estates. Armed with knowledge of such terms, prospective lenders could insist on the
12 maximum market flex that the Debtors would be obligated to accept in accordance with the terms of
13 the Bridge Fee Letters. (*Id.* ¶ 6.)

14 It is a widespread practice for courts to authorize the filing of similar confidential
15 financing information under seal. *See, e.g., In re Hexion Holdings LLC*, No. 19-10684 (KG), at 2
16 (Bankr. D. Del. June 7, 2019) (ECF No. 553) (“The Debtors are authorized to file the Fee Letters and
17 the Notes Engagement Letter under seal and to redact information concerning the fees payable in the
18 form of Notes Engagement Letter annexed to the Motion.”); *In re Avaya Inc.*, No. 17-10089 (SMB),
19 at 2 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y Oct. 25, 2017) (ECF No. 1388) (“The Debtors are authorized to file the Exit Fee
20 Letter under seal”); *In re Optima Specialty Steel, Inc.*, No. 16-12789 (KJC), at 4 (Bankr. D. Del.
21 June 29, 2017) (ECF No. 899) (“The Debtors are authorized to file the Fee Letter under seal”); *In*
22 *re Ultra Petroleum Corp.*, No. 16-32202 (MI), at 1 (Bankr. S.D. Tex. Feb. 13, 2017) (ECF No. 1125)
23 (“The Debtors are authorized to file in redacted form or under seal the Exit Financing Agreements
24 [including Fee Letters and the Engagement Letter] and Exit Financing Motion.”); *In re Homer City*
25 *Generation, L.P.*, No. 17-10086 (MFW), at 2 (Bankr. D. Del. Jan. 18, 2017) (ECF No. 84) (“The
26 Debtor is authorized to file the Documents [including the Engagement Letter] under seal.”); *In re*
27 *Rotech Healthcare Inc.*, No. 13-10741 (PJW), at 4 (Bankr. D. Del. July 29, 2013) (ECF No. 762)
28 (“[T]he Debtors are authorized to file the First Lien Credit Facilities Fee Letter under seal”); *In*

1 *re Smurfit-Stone Container Corp.*, No. 09-10235 (BLS), at 3 (Bankr. D. Del. Feb. 16, 2010) (ECF No.
2 5056) (“[T]he Debtors are authorized to file the Fee Letters under seal”); *In re Tribune Co.*, No.
3 08-13141 (KJC), at 2 (Bankr. D. Del. Dec. 10, 2008) (ECF No. 62) (“Movants are authorized to file
4 the Fee Letters under seal”); and *In re Adelphia Communications Corp.*, No. 02-41729 (REG), at
5 2 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Mar. 24, 2004) (ECF No. 4260) (“[T]he Confidential Materials [including the
6 Engagement Letter and Fee Letter] . . . shall remain confidential, [and] be filed under seal”).

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8 The Debtors and the Initial Bridge Commitment Parties fully acknowledge the
9 paramount importance of the policy of open access to courts underlying section 107(a)—“[e]xcept as
10 provided in subsections (b) and (c) and subject to section 112, a paper filed in a case under this title
11 and the dockets of a bankruptcy court are public records open to examination by an entity at reasonable
12 times without charge.” 11 U.S.C. § 107(a). In this spirit, the Debtors have narrowly tailored their
13 request to filing the Bridge Fee Letters and only certain portions of the Debt Financing Engagement
14 Letters with the Court under seal according to the Local Procedures, and propose to share copies of
15 the Bridge Fee Letters and the Redacted Portions of the Debt Financing Engagement Letters with the
16 U.S. Trustee and advisors to the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors, the Official Committee
17 of Tort Claimants and any other official committee established pursuant to section 1102 of the
18 Bankruptcy Code on a confidential and professionals’ eyes only basis.

19 **IV. NOTICE**

20 Notice of this Motion will be provided to (i) the Office of the United States Trustee for
21 Region 17 (Attn: Andrew Vara, Esq. and Timothy Laffredi, Esq.); (ii) counsel to the Creditors
22 Committee; (iii) counsel to the Tort Claimants Committee; (iv) the Securities and Exchange
23 Commission; (v) the Internal Revenue Service; (vi) the Office of the California Attorney General;
24 (vii) the California Public Utilities Commission; (viii) the Nuclear Regulatory Commission; (ix) the
25 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; (x) the Office of the United States Attorney for the Northern
26 District of California; (xi) counsel for the agent under the Debtors’ debtor-in-possession financing
27 facilities; (xii) counsel for the Initial Bridge Commitment Parties; and (xiii) those persons who have
28

1 formally appeared in these Chapter 11 Cases and requested service pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 2002
2 (collectively, the “**Notice Parties**”). The Debtors respectfully submit that no further notice is required.

3 No previous request for the relief sought herein has been made by the Debtors.

4 *[Signature on next page]*
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1 WHEREFORE the Debtors respectfully request entry of an order granting the relief
2 requested herein and such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and appropriate.

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4 Dated: October 23, 2019

5 **WEIL, GOTSHAL & MANGES LLP**
6 **CRAVATH, SWAINE & MOORE LLP**
7 **KELLER & BENVENUTTI LLP**

8 _____
9 /s/ Paul H. Zumbro

10 Paul H. Zumbro

11 *Attorneys for Debtors and Debtors in Possession*
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